said B chain having the amino acid sequence:

Pro-Thr-Pro-Glu-Met-Arg-Glu-Lys-Leu-Cys-Gly-His-His-Phe-Val-Arg-Ala-Leu-Val-Arg-
Val-Cys-Gly-Gly-Pro-Arg-Trp-Ser-Thr-Glu-Ala (SEQ ID NO:4)

or said amino acid sequence (SEQ ID NO:4) truncated by up to 5 amino acids from the N-
terminus and/or by up to 5 amino acids from the C-terminus;

said A and B chains linked by disulfide bonds between amino acid residue number 11
of SEQ ID NO:3 and amino acid number 10 of SEQ ID NO:4, wherein the condition is
ameliorated [or prevented] by the administration of the relaxin like factor.

15. (amended) The method of Claim 14, wherein the condition is [immature
ripening of the cervix] ameliorated by softening the pubic ligament or the cervical ligament of
the mammal.

16. (amended) The method of Claim 4, wherein the condition is sperm mobility
[disfunction] dysfunction or infertility.

REMARKS

After entry of the present Preliminary Amendment, Claims 4-6 and 14-20 are
pending in the instant application. Applicants note with approval that the Examiner considers
Claim 20 allowable. For the Examiner's convenience, a copy of the claims as pending after
entry of this Preliminary Amendment is attached hereto as Appendix A.

I. THE INVENTION

A basis for the invention is Applicants' discovery of the biological activities of
relaxin like factor. Surprisingly, relaxin like factor shows functional similarity to relaxin
despite the fact that, structurally, relaxin like factor is closer to insulin than to relaxin.
Specifically, Applicants synthetically produced relaxin like factor (for the first time) and
showed it to have fairly high and specific affinity for a relaxin receptor on human cell
membranes (see specification at 36). Further, Applicants discovered that relaxin like factor
provokes, in many cases, similar cellular responses as those caused by relaxin. For example,
relaxin like factor had similar activity to relaxin in maintaining sperm motility when assayed
in vitro (see specification at 37). In other examples, relaxin like factor exhibited similar

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